

Congratulations - Pointe au Baril Emergency Response Team - 10th years!!!



*As a courtesy to the Pointe au Baril community, **PaBERT** produced and gave to each member of PaBIA a refrigerator magnet that should have been found in your Yearbook package - mailed out in record time this year by May 8! Thank you to Mike Payne and the entire team of volunteer trained responders for providing these to all PaBIA members!*

This year marks PaBERT's 10th anniversary! What an awesome accomplishment! It took determination, perseverance, dedication and plain old hard work (read its interesting history below) but the results are outstanding! You stand tall in the community! We thank you and applaud your efforts!

PaBERT History

By Mike Payne

Edited by Fred LeFevre and Hilde Clark

Mike Payne, Bill Kennedy, Shane Evoy and Fred LeFevre had a meeting in July 2001 at Mike's house to discuss the possibility of bringing a team together to respond to fire and medical emergencies in Pointe au Baril. At the time, aside from the nursing station on the South Shore Road seeing to medical concerns for both the permanent and seasonal residents, there was neither after-hour or on-the-water medical assistance, and certainly no fire protection aside from the four PaBIA fire pumps distributed strategically amongst the islands or small independently-owned pumps scattered about.

After much discussion with local folks, islanders and the Township, and borne out of a strongly-felt need, the Pointe au Baril Fire Brigade was established in 2002 and made up of a volunteer team of willing and able men and women: **Mike Payne, Mark Payne, Laurie Payne, Tom Penfold, Denise Penfold, Shane Evoy, Kirk Evoy, Darlene Evoy, Coco Brennan, Randy Gardner, Jeremy Kennedy.**

Over the next year, countless hours were spent researching and designing what was needed to properly equip a FIRE RESCUE boat; and then fundraisers were held and many donations received in order to build and equip the boat. The rescue boat houses an extremely powerful, high capacity firepump using bay water to douse home and cottage fires, carries basic emergency and medical supplies for those out in the islands and has the equipment to safely transport a victim back to the mainland. Due to thorough planning by those



PaBERT team today



Extremely Powerful and High Capacity Firepumps

directly involved, the design for the boat and the equipment chosen for the boat continues to function very well to this day.

Over this same time period, during the winter of 2002-03, those involved from Pointe au Baril were formally trained by the Britt Rescue and Parry Sound Emergency Services teams, expending a large number of unpaid hours to gain the knowledge and know-how to provide safe and professional services to the Pointe au Baril community. Guy Harris from the Base Hospital in Parry Sound continues to train all the volunteers in First Aid and as First Responders every year to keep the team on top of their skills.

After formally setting up the Fire Brigade; designing, building and equipping the Rescue boat; and getting professional training, the Brigade was ready to go in the Spring of 2004. Several years later, and at

the urging of the Parry Sound Emergency Services, the name was changed to the Pointe au Baril Emergency Response Team – otherwise known as **PaBERT** – to better reflect its mission and service.

A good communication system is essential to the successful running of an emergency volunteer service, and after careful research, the system presently used was installed. When someone calls 705-366-FIRE, the call goes through an interconnecting device that transmits the signal to all the team's portable radios. The 'lead' first responder on call will answer the emergency plea and the other volunteers are able to hear both sides of the conversation, enabling them to act immediately from wherever they may be.

Because PaBERT was a volunteer unit, not supported by the Township, the need for ongoing financial support was evident. Therefore PaBERT was reorganized as a charitable organization in order to offer tax receipts to all donors. It is through the many donations of both permanent and seasonal residents and careful financial management that PaBERT runs in the black. PaBERT is always appreciative of the donations made to the organization – as it could not continue without the support provided!

Last year, to enhance our fire protection with the use of the state-of-the-art FIRE/RESCUE boat and ambulance, PaBERT had The Ironworker construct a unique 'design-attack' unit on a trailer for fighting land-based fires. This equipment and the gear associated with it have all been purchased from donations from those in the village, both businesses and individuals, and the Islanders.

Our annual expenses include several fixed costs of which liability insurance is the biggest - presently the cost is set at \$9,200. This covers the boat, ambulance, attack unit and personal insurance for the volunteers in case of injury in responding to fires and medical calls. The other costs include maintenance, gas, protective equipment for volunteers, radios for the boat, ambulance and volunteers and, the last, perhaps most important, are necessary medical supplies, some of which have 'best before dates' and must to be kept current.



Design-Attack unit trailed behind PaBERT ambulance

In recent years, PaBERT has served at fires on several islands caused mainly by lightning strikes. The team has also attended heart attacks, broken bones, sprains and rattlesnake bites among others over the years.

As we look to the future, PaBERT hopes to become an integral part of the new Ambulance Base being built in Pointe au Baril.